

## Language Regarding The Carry Forward Of Appropriations

"All remaining federal pass-through grants appropriation, including reversions, for the 2007 biennium are authorized to continue and are appropriated in FY 2008 and FY 2009."

The Board of Crime Control Administers 16 different grant programs for which the duration of many of these awards span three or more state fiscal years. As a result there are over 30 Block grant awards active at all times. The Board makes subgrant awards from these grants to fund allowable programs around the state. The number of programs funded by MBCC around Montana varies from 200 to 300 each year. Projects are normally awarded for duration of 12 months. Often times projects will revert funds when they close and there is still time to re-award these funds. **I believe the Board of Crime Control began using the carry forward language in HB2 in the late 1980's at the recommendation of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee and have been using it ever since.**

Prior to using this language the Board had to present multiple requests to the Senate Finance and Claims Committee to extend the appropriation authority on grants in order to try to fully utilize the pass through funds for the benefit of the state. The chair of the Committee stated that it would be very unlikely that the committee would ever say no we do not want the Board to use these funds to fund programs around the state. In view of the fact that the committee would be approving the requests for extension it did not make since to waste so much staff time at MBCC, OBPP, LFD, and SFCC in processing forms, reviewing them and taking action on these requests. **The Committee directed the LFD to work with the Board to make these appropriations continue for the life of the grant in a more efficient method. This language is the result of that.**

**There has been no attempt to amend or violate the budget law. The important point is this language applies only to the pass through funds and not the agency operating budget.** By using this system the Board has been able to fully utilize federal pass through funds for the benefit of the state. If we were to go back to the old method of having to request extensions through Senate Finance and Claims Committee it likely would result in the inefficient use of staff time and funds having to be returned to the federal grantor agency due to time constraints. Senate Finance and claims meets quarterly and so does our Board. As a result of when the meetings are scheduled this can delay the ability to award these funds by up to 6 months resulting in the inability to fund and conduct a program before the funds expire.